

“He [Grandfather] Could Have Been Killed by an Indian... Kinda Ruffles my Feathers a Lil Bit”: British-Born Pakistanis’ and British-Born Indians’ Social Representations of Their Polyphasic Inter and Intra Group Relations in a Focus Group Setting

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Seventy years have passed since the controversial partition which formed Pakistan and divided India. It is without doubt that Pakistan’s and India’s violent past perpetuates current relations. This dissertation asked the question, how do British-Born Pakistanis (BBPs) and British-Born Indians (BBIs) represent their current intergroup relation? The question was dissected into three sub-questions using the Social Representations Theory’s Ego-Alter-Object Triad; How do BBPs and BBIs represent themselves, one another, and their intergroup relation. The Social Identity Approach (SIA) and Social Representations Theory (SRT) were used as theoretical pinning for this research. Six focus groups were conducted in total; three for the BBP group and three for the BBI group. After completing Braun and Clarke’s (2006) Thematic Analysis, seven overarching themes were

developed. Unsettled Product of Home and Society and Battling Discrimination were how BBPs and BBIs represented themselves. They discussed how with the “other” they were United under the United Kingdom, and reminisced about the Roots of their Divide. Both groups debated the Lingering Tension and Limited Closeness of their intergroup relation. However, the overarching theme, Reserved, was distinct for how the BBI group represented BBPs and the overarching theme, Socially and Economically Headstrong, was distinct for how BBPs represented BBIs. This research supports the SIA and the SRT. This study concludes that BBPs and BBIs harbour a polyphasic inter and intra group relation in 21st Century Britain. Future research could explore collective memory surrounding the partition in Pakistanis and Indians who were present through this turbulent phase of history.